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ed. The reading of the sheets of this book seems to have been intrusted to some ignoramus, who had never read a line of Greek or Latin; so that, in respect to the orthography and accentuation of proper names, the present edition is wholly untrustworthy. We have Virentes for Veientes, Conrum for Comum, Careto for Caieta, Ancius for Anicius, Ancus for Aruns, Africa for Attica, Erus for Ems, Aquæ Lutæ for Aquæ Sextiæ, &c. To show the degree of care with which the accents have been affixed, out of a forest of errors we select the following; Méssene, Megáris, Ozólæ, Ephýre, Taygétum, Phálereus, Mycále, Thrasýbulus, Evergètes, Creméra, Archímedes, and Cicéro, — the last, as if needing confirmation, appearing thrice on one page. We ought in justice, however, to acknowledge the scrupulous accuracy with which such words as Núma, Tárquin, Álba, Cróton, Gáza, and others, are accentuated; though we know not why Dendera and Naucratis have not at least an equal right. We cannot complain of a man merely for holding his literary reputation so cheap as to consent to be responsible for a roll of blunders, which would disgrace a school-boy. That is his own affair. But we do complain of publishers who borrow, and editors who lend, the authority of respectable names to editions equally discreditable to both.

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2. — *Rural Economy, in its Relations with Chemistry, Physics, and Meteorology; or Chemistry applied to Agriculture.* By J. B. BOUSSINGAULT, Member of the Institute of France, etc. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by GEORGE LAW, Agriculturist. New York: Appleton & Co. 1844. 12mo. pp. 507.

THIS is a handsome American reprint of a faulty English translation of an excellent work. M. Boussingault, whose name is by no means new to our readers, possesses rare qualifications as a writer on chemical and physical science applied to agriculture and rural affairs generally. He is a learned and experienced chemist, and has largely contributed to the recent advancement of the organic department of this science; he has been an extensive traveller, and has resided for several years in tropical America; he is also a practical farmer. The fruits of his foreign travel, and of his observations and experiments at home as the fellow-laborer of Arago and Dumas, tested by his experience at Bechelbronn, as a farmer perfectly familiar not only with the principles upon which agriculture depends, but also with their results under a great variety of circumstances,

must therefore possess the highest value. We should add, that Boussingault's farm in Alsace, the extreme east of France, is situated in a climate not essentially different from that of our own Northern and Middle States.

The work embodies the results of the inquiries upon various points of rural economy with which the author has long been sedulously engaged, presented in the most practical and generally intelligible form which the nature of the topics admits. French *savans* are, we think, peculiarly successful in their attempts to convey scientific truths in a popular style; and our author is so clear and simple in his statements, and has so completely excluded all superfluous technical details, that his book will prove, we imagine, more interesting to the general reader than any of its class. It is more sound, discriminating, and practical than the works of Liebig, more readable and much more comprehensive than those of Johnston. Want of room alone prevents us from giving an analysis of the contents of the volume, and a series of extracts on a variety of important subjects, — such, for instance, as the causes of decay in timber, and the modes lately adopted in France of impregnating the trunks of trees, when felled, with cheap but efficient antiseptic materials, so as to protect the timber against dry-rot and other causes of decay, to increase its hardness and strength, preserve its elasticity, diminish its inflammability, counteract the alternate expansion and contraction from the varying moisture of the atmosphere, and even to impart to common kinds of wood a variety of permanent tints, which will render them adapted to the construction of costly furniture. The account of the sugar manufacture and the cultivation of the sugar-cane is also very interesting, and abounds with hints that may be turned to profitable account by our neighbours, about to become our brethren, in Texas. The chapters on the feeding of animals and management of stock have anticipated Liebig's promised work upon that subject; and the meteorological chapter, filled with matters that will be new and striking to general readers, closes with a discussion of the influence of agricultural labors and the clearing of woods upon the climate of a country, and the quantity of running water. The question is interesting to us, since our own country is about to furnish the most satisfactory elements for its solution. Boussingault, who has studied the subject chiefly in the tropics, gives it as his opinion, that the felling of forests over a large extent of country always lessens the mean annual quantity of rain, and tends to disturb its equable distribution; thus agreeing with Humboldt, who remarks, that men in all climates, by destroying the trees which cover the summits and slopes of mountains, seem to be

bringing upon future generations two calamities at once, — a want of fuel and a scarcity of water.

The most unsatisfactory chapter of the book is the first, which is devoted to a brief summary of vegetable physiology, though here the numerous faults chiefly relate to matters of detail. They are, besides, greatly exaggerated by the incompetency of the translator, who in numerous passages has attained only a dim perception of his author's meaning. Mr. George Law may have done his best; but he appears to lack two rather important qualifications of a translator; namely, an adequate acquaintance with the subject of his author's book, and with the language in which it is written.\* The editor's notes, even upon practical subjects, and his introductory comments, are of a similar character; as, for instance, where he controverts his author's views upon the philosophy of the dunghill; — but here, as Mrs. Malaprop would say, "comparisons are odorous," and we cannot engage in the discussion. We may, however, venture to advise the enterprising New York publishers to procure a new translation by some competent hand, when a second edition of this very valuable work is needed.

M. Boussingault, confining himself to his legitimate province, scarcely touches upon questions of pure physiology. But we are glad to notice, that he does not seem to countenance doctrines just now rife and popular, which would resolve all the phenomena of life into ordinary, or extraordinary, chemical or molecular action, — doctrines extremely seducing to young and unwary chemists, which the specious writings of Liebig have done much to bring into vogue, and of which Mulder now appears to be the foremost expounder. We shall probably have occasion to examine them *in extenso* at no distant day, in their connection with the recent progress and tendencies of chemico-physiological science.

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3. — *Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Massachusetts in 1844. Third Annual Report.* By JOHN G. PALFREY, Secretary of the Commonwealth. Boston. 1845. 8vo. pp. xxix, 110.

AN act was passed in Massachusetts, in 1842, providing for an annual return of births, marriages, and deaths in the State. This

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\* The readers of the English version may be somewhat surprised to find *mahogany* mentioned as a *dye-wood*. But the translator has merely taken a fancy to apply this name, instead of *logwood*, to *bois de Campêche*, or *Hæmatoxylon Campechianum*.